

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Tank Firing Details in the Letzling HeathEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 12 October 1955REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The following tank shipments were observed in Magdeburg - Rothensee between 1 and 22 September 1955:

25X1

1 September. Seven T-34 tanks, 3 trucks, 1 closed boxcar and 3 converted boxcars with troops, from Haldensleben to Koethen.

At 1748, 10 canvas-covered T-34 tanks, 4 trucks, 1 ambulance, 1 field kitchen, 1 motorcycle, 4 converted boxcars with troops and 25 closed boxcars from Rossrau to Haldensleben.

At 1830, 9 T-34 tanks, 1 closed boxcar "P" (sic), 2 flatcars with ammunition boxes, 2 van-like trucks, 1 field kitchen, 2 motorcycles, 1 ambulance, 3 T-34s and 4 converted boxcars with personnel, from Rossrau to Haldensleben.

3 September. At 1000, 10 JS-3 tanks, 4 T-34 tanks, all covered by tarpaulins, 1 motorcycle, 1 BA-64 armored scout car, 1 field kitchen, 1 ambulance, 11 trucks and 8 converted boxcars with personnel, from Haldensleben to Rossrau.²

6 September. At 1130, 10 canvas-covered T-34 tanks, 2 jeeps, 6 converted boxcars with soldiers, 5 trucks, 1 ambulance, 3 closed boxcars, 7 trucks including 3 van-like trucks, 11 canvas-covered JS-3 tanks and 6 converted boxcars with soldiers, from Haldensleben to Priestewitz.⁴

8 September. At 1100, 1 SU-100 gun and 1 JSU-122 gun, from Wuensdorf to Haldensleben.⁵

9 September. At 1800, 4 T-34 tanks with crews on a freight train, from Wuensdorf to Haldensleben.⁵

12 September. At noon, 8 T-34/85 tanks, 2 trucks with trailers including No U-3-45-76, 1 field kitchen, 14 boxcars with officers and EM, 2 JS-3 tanks, 2 trucks including No P 4-24-84 and 1 boxcar with personnel, from Dresden-Neustadt to Haldensleben.⁶

16 September. At 1750, 12 T-34/85 tanks, 8 converted boxcars with officers and EM, 3 closed boxcars, 1 boxcar with soldiers and 7 trucks with equipment from Rothensee to Haldensleben.⁷

17 September. At 0800, 2 T-34/85 tanks, with crews, from Rothensee to

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[REDACTED]

Haldensleben.⁵

At 1230, 5 T-34/85 tanks, 2 SU-100 guns, 4 trucks, with equipment, 1 closed boxcar, 5 large trucks [REDACTED] 1 ambulance, 3 converted boxcars with officers and EM, 1 large truck, 1 field kitchen, 2 canvas-covered T-34/85 tanks and 7 converted boxcars with officers and EM from Suhl to Wolmirstedt in Letzling Heath.⁸

25X1

21 September. At 1400, 2 SU-100 guns, 2 T-34/85 tanks, 2 trucks and 1 boxcar with soldiers from Haldensleben to Meiningen.⁹

22 September. At 1400, 10 canvas-covered JSU-122 guns, 1 SU gun chassis without gun, 9 trucks, 2 repair shop trucks, 1 radio truck, 1 field kitchen, 1 motorcycle, and 3 converted boxcars with officers and EM from Haldensleben to Bernau, [REDACTED]

25X1

At 2020, 14/JS-3 canvas-covered tanks, 13 trucks, 1 sedan and 3 converted boxcars, with officers and EM, from Haldensleben to Berlin, [REDACTED]

25X1

2. At noon on 21 September, a train with 2 JS-3 tanks, 9 T-54 tanks, 2 trucks with trailers, 2 field kitchens [REDACTED] and 15 boxcars with personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets passed through the Roederau railroad station en route from the direction of Falkenberg toward Dresden.⁶

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3. [REDACTED]

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5 September. One shipment to Crawinkel.

6 September. A shipment of 6 converted boxcars, 3 boxcars and 15 flatcars from Hillersleben to Zeithain, [REDACTED] A shipment of 6 converted boxcars, 3 boxcars, and 10 flatcars from Hillersleben to Oschatz, [REDACTED]

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16 September. A shipment from Altengrabow to Koenigsbrueck, [REDACTED]

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A shipment from Altengrabow to Plauen, [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. The shipment cannot be explained.
2. [REDACTED] Comment. This was a tank firing detail of the 7th Gds Tank Div.
3. [REDACTED] Comment. The shipments to Crawinkel observed on 5 and 6 September are believed to be identical and probably involved a tank firing detail of the 20th Gds Mecz Div.
4. [REDACTED] Comment. This was presumably a tank firing detail of the 11th Gds Tank Div, possibly of the 45th Gds Tank Regt Meissen.
5. [REDACTED] Comment. These were presumably tanks which had been overhauled and repaired in the Wuensdorf tank repair shop.
6. [REDACTED] Comment. Motor vehicle [REDACTED] was observed with both shipments on 12 and 21 September. This tends to indicate that the trains carried the same tank firing detail of the First Gds Mecz Army, presumably of the 11th Gds Tank Div, [REDACTED]

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7. Comment. This shipment cannot be explained.

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8. Comment. This tank firing detail from Suhl is of interest because this post quarters only the 13th Mtrcl Bn of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. It can therefore be assumed that the reconnaissance battalions of the motorized rifle divisions my, at least partially, be also equipped with T-34/85 tanks and SU-100 guns. The assumption is supported by observation with the 115th Mtrcl Bn of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div in Gardelegen.

9. Comment. This was presumably a tank firing detail of the 117th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. SU-100 guns and T-34/85 tanks have not definitely been observed with the motorized rifle regiments of the motorized rifle divisions. Since Meiningen quarters only the 117th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt, it can quite definitely be assumed that the tanks and SP guns seen on the train belonged to this regiment.

25X1

10. Comment. These were presumably tank firing details of the 6th Gds Mecz Div from Bernau and Berlin - Kaulsdorf.

25X1

11. Comment. These were presumably tank firing details of the 9th Tank Div.

12. Comment. These two shipments may have also involved tank firing details, which returned from Letzling ~~East~~, although the type of cars does not support this assumption. On 16 September, JSU-1229 gun was unloaded in Koenigsbrueck. Empty ~~22~~ heavy-duty flatcars and imprints of tank tracks tended to indicate that ~~two more~~ ~~SP~~ guns had already been unloaded.

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